



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE
CZECH BRIDGE FEDERATION



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Bulletin 4

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AUSTRIAN GIRLS ALMOST THERE!



Albert Einstein used to live just around the corner – recognise him?



Welcome to the President

The President of the European Bridge League, Gianarrigo Rona arrived in Prague yesterday and will be attending the remainder of these Championships. His presence reflects the importance which he attaches to youth bridge, as he has done for many years. On behalf of you all, I would like to welcome Gianarrigo to Prague and hope that he has a pleasant and enjoyable stay at the Championships.

Panos Gerontopoulos

RESULTS



JUNIORS



ROUND ROBIN SESSION 8

Match		IMPs		VPs	
1	AUSTRIA RUSSIA	25	62	7	23
2	SCOTLAND BELGIUM	40	48	14	16
3	FRANCE TURKEY	57	54	16	14
4	SERBIA & MONT HUNGARY	29	101	2	25
5	POLAND CZECH REP.	66	15	25	5
6	LITHUANIA SWEDEN	14	81	2	25
7	FINLAND GERMANY	32	56	10	20
8	ISRAEL PORTUGAL	41	45	14	16
9	ROMANIA SLOVAKIA	78	3	25	1
10	ITALY CROATIA	42	46	14	16
11	NETHERLANDS DENMARK	64	29	22	8
12	GREECE ENGLAND	23	67	6	23.5
13	NORWAY SPAIN	68	22	24	6

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 9

1	RUSSIA ISRAEL	16	60	6	24
2	ROMANIA FINLAND	71	26	24	6
3	ITALY LITHUANIA	71	10	25	3
4	NETHERLANDS POLAND	28	71	6	24
5	GREECE SERBIA & MONT.	26	65	7	23
6	NORWAY FRANCE	63	41	20	10
7	SPAIN SCOTLAND	32	21	17	13
8	ENGLAND AUSTRIA	44	75	9	21
9	DENMARK BELGIUM	26	70	6	24
10	CROATIA TURKEY	39	47	14	16
11	SLOVAKIA HUNGARY	33	81	5	25
12	PORTUGAL CZECH REP.	44	51	14	16
13	GERMANY SWEDEN	50	36	18	12

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 10

1	GERMANY RUSSIA	32	56	10	20
2	SWEDEN PORTUGAL	79	18	25	3
3	CZECH REP. SLOVAKIA	104	1	25	0
4	HUNGARY CROATIA	77	28	25	5
5	TURKEY DENMARK	62	32	21	9
6	BELGIUM ENGLAND	52	46	16	14
7	AUSTRIA SPAIN	75	18	25	4
8	SCOTLAND NORWAY	37	44	14	16
9	FRANCE GREECE	83	38	24	6
10	SERBIA & MONT. NETHERLANDS	83	62	19	11
11	POLAND ITALY	44	38	16	14
12	LITHUANIA ROMANIA	56	65	13	17
13	FINLAND ISRAEL	49	62	12	18



GIRLS



ROUND ROBIN SESSION 8

Match		IMPs		VPs	
21	HUNGARY Bye	0	0	18	0
22	BELGIUM NETHERLANDS	42	47	14	16
23	LATVIA SWEDEN	4	68	3	25
24	ISRAEL GERMANY	35	51	12	18
25	ITALY POLAND	46	56	13	17
26	AUSTRIA CZECH REP.	58	49	17	13

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 9

21	AUSTRIA Bye	0	0	18	0
22	CZECH REP. ITALY	65	18	24	6
23	POLAND ISRAEL	58	36	20	10
24	GERMANY LATVIA	55	44	17	13
25	SWEDEN BELGIUM	62	18	24	6
26	NETHERLANDS HUNGARY	76	46	21	9

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 10

21	GERMANY Bye	0	0	18	0
22	SWEDEN POLAND	58	31	21	9
23	NETHERLANDS CZECH REP.	48	28	19	11
24	HUNGARY AUSTRIA	25	65	7	23
25	BELGIUM ITALY	15	67	4.5	25
26L	ATVIA ISRAEL	12	107	0	24

VUGRAPH
MATCH

Austria v Netherlands (Girls)

10:00

JUNIORS**GIRLS****TODAY'S PROGRAM****ROUND ROBIN SESSION 11**

1	RUSSIA	GREECE
2	NORWAY	NETHERLANDS
3	SPAIN	ITALY
4	ENGLAND	ROMANIA
5	DENMARK	ISRAEL
6	CROATIA	FINLAND
7	SLOVAKIA	LITHUANIA
8	PORTUGAL	POLAND
9	GERMANY	SERBIA & MONT.
10	SWEDEN	FRANCE
11	CZECH REP.	SCOTLAND
12	HUNGARY	AUSTRIA
13	TURKEY	BELGIUM

**RANKING AFTER SESSION 10**

1	NORWAY	202
2	HUNGARY	196
3	POLAND	191
4	ISRAEL	186.5
5	ITALY	185.5
6	FRANCE	183
	ROMANIA	183
8	BELGIUM	182
9	NETHERLANDS	171
10	SWEDEN	170
11	RUSSIA	169.5
12	ENGLAND	168.5
13	AUSTRIA	165
14	CROATIA	159
15	TURKEY	139.5
16	CZECH REP.	138
17	FINLAND	135
18	GERMANY	131
19	DENMARK	124.5
20	PORTUGAL	112
21	SERBIA & MONT.	99.5
22	GREECE	98
	SCOTLAND	98
24	SPAIN	94
25	LITHUANIA	66
26	SLOVAKIA	60

ROUND ROBIN SESSION 11

21	LATVIA	Bye
22	ISRAEL	BELGIUM
23	ITALY	HUNGARY
24	AUSTRIA	NETHERLANDS
25	CZECH REP.	SWEDEN
26	POLAND	GERMANY

RANKING AFTER SESSION 10

1	AUSTRIA	217
2	SWEDEN	197
3	POLAND	189
4	NETHERLANDS	181
5	CZECH REPUBLIC	155
6	ITALY	154
7	ISRAEL	128
8	GERMANY	124
9	HUNGARY	117
10	BELGIUM	111.5
11	LATVIA	78

Please inform the Hospitality Desk by Friday afternoon how many of you are going to participate in Sunday's outing.

Programme: 14.00 Lunch
15.00 / 17.00 boat trip with snack and music
17.15 / 19.00 Prague Castle visit
19.15 Dinner in usual dining room

Guides who speak three different languages are joining us.

Team Profiles

We would like to publish profiles of as many teams as possible so please get something organised for us. This is an opportunity for a captain or coach to say what he REALLY thinks of his team, so come on, this is your big chance! The more humorous the better, but nothing that will see either the Daily Bulletin or the writer in a court case. OK?

JUNIOR TEAMS ROUND 6



HUNGARY

vs

NORWAY



It seemed that it was time to look in on our leaders, Norway, who have made an impressive start to the tournament. In Round 6 they faced Hungary, who were at that time lying in mid-table.

Peter Marjai led the ♣10 against 3NT and Gabor Minarik won the ace and returned the suit for the jack and queen. A third club went to declarer's king and Ringseth led a spade towards the dummy. Ducking twice causes declarer big problems but Marjai won the ♠A immediately and now Ringseth had nine tricks; +400.

Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

♠ K Q ♥ A K 8 7 ♦ A J 9 7 5 ♣ 6 5	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 10 4 3 ♥ J 10 6 2 ♦ Q 10 6 2 ♣ A 8
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ A 8 7 ♥ Q 5 4 3 ♦ 8 3 ♣ Q 10 9 7	♠ J 9 6 5 2 ♥ 9 ♦ K 4 ♣ K J 4 3 2										

Against 4NT by North, Allan Livgard led the ♥J to declarer's ace. Mraz played the king then queen of spades and both were ducked. Now he tried a club to the king, a good view in that suit, and tried to bring in the diamonds. When that suit did not behave as hoped, Mraz drifted three off for -150 and 11 IMPs to Norway.

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

♠ 4 ♥ 8 7 3 ♦ A K 9 ♣ A K 5 4 3 2	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K Q 9 7 5 3 ♥ A J 9 5 ♦ J 5 2 ♣ —
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ J 8 6 ♥ K Q 10 ♦ 10 8 7 3 ♣ Q 7 6										
	♠ A 10 2 ♥ 6 4 2 ♦ Q 6 4 ♣ J 10 9 8										

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marjai	Kippe	Minarik	Ringseth
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
P Eide	Mraz	Livgard	Szegedi
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marjai	Kippe	Minarik	Ringseth
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
P Eide	Mraz	Livgard	Szegedi
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

For Norway, Hakon Kippe chose to bid out his pattern with a 2♥ reverse, while at the other table Mate Mraz preferred to describe the general nature and strength of his hand with a jump to 2NT. The reverse made it easy for Jorn Ringseth to choose to play in no trump and he jumped to 3NT where he played. Facing a strong balanced hand, Balasz Szegedi thought the hand belonged in one of his five-card suits so jumped to 4♣. Mraz converted to no trump, but at a dangerously high level.

It is a matter of systemic style whether to bid spades, spades, hearts, as did Minarik, or spades, hearts, spades, as Livgard. It mattered not as both found themselves dummy in 3NT.

Against Marjai, Kippe led the $\diamond 7$, which ran to declarer's nine. Marjai ducked a club to South and back came a spade to the jack and queen. However, Marjai could come to hand with a diamond and play three rounds of clubs, South winning again, to establish the suit, and the defence could not hurt him; nine tricks for +600.

Mraz also led a diamond, the eight, but Petter Eide did not guess as well, putting up the jack, covered by queen and ace. He too ducked a club to South but the diamond return for the nine and ten followed by another diamond to the king left him with no chance. The contract was down two for -200 and 13 IMPs to Hungary, giving them the lead at 20-11.

Board 7. All Vul. Dealer South.

<p>\spadesuit A K Q 7 5 \heartsuit A 9 4 \diamond 8 3 \clubsuit A 8 2</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>\spadesuit 10 8 6 2 \heartsuit 8 5 2 \diamond J 9 5 4 \clubsuit Q 4</p>	<p>\spadesuit J 9 \heartsuit K Q 10 7 3 \diamond 10 2 \clubsuit 9 6 5 3</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	<p>\spadesuit 4 3 \heartsuit J 6 \diamond A K Q 7 6 \clubsuit K J 10 7</p>											

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marjai	Kippe	Minarik	Ringseth
-	-	-	1NT
Pass	2 \clubsuit	Pass	2 \diamond
Pass	2 \spadesuit	Pass	2NT
Pass	3 \clubsuit	Pass	3 \diamond
Pass	3 \heartsuit	Pass	3NT
Pass	6 \spadesuit	All Pass	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
P Eide	Mraz	Livgard	Szegedi
-	-	-	1 \diamond
Pass	1 \spadesuit	Pass	1NT
Pass	2 \diamond	Pass	3 \clubsuit
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

Ringseth's off-centre 1NT opening saw Kippe explore for a while then jump to the spade slam when he didn't find out anything to tempt him to go further. The lead was a heart to declarer's ace. Kippe cashed the top spades then played three top diamonds, pitching a heart, ruffed a diamond and crossed to the $\clubsuit K$ to pitch his last heart on the established diamond; +1430.

Szegedi opened 1 \diamond and rebid 1NT, then admitted to a club suit. Mraz blasted the no trump slam. The lead was the $\heartsuit K$ and Szegedi correctly ducked then won the spade switch. A club to the jack saw him well on the way home and now he needed either an even split in spades or diamonds or a squeeze. With East holding the length in both key suits, there was no defence; +1440 and a push board.

Board 10. All Vul. Dealer East.

<p>\spadesuit 7 6 5 3 \heartsuit K 8 7 6 5 3 \diamond 3 \clubsuit Q 10</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>\spadesuit 9 \heartsuit Q 10 2 \diamond J 7 6 \clubsuit 8 7 6 5 4 3</p>	<p>\spadesuit K J 10 2 \heartsuit 9 4 \diamond A Q 9 8 5 2 \clubsuit A</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	<p>\spadesuit A Q 8 4 \heartsuit A J \diamond K 10 4 \clubsuit K J 9 2</p>											

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marjai	Kippe	Minarik	Ringseth
-	-	Pass	1 \clubsuit
1 \diamond	1 \spadesuit	Pass	2NT
Pass	3 \diamond	Pass	3 \spadesuit
Pass	4 \heartsuit	Pass	4 \spadesuit
Dble	All Pass		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
P Eide	Mraz	Livgard	Szegedi
-	-	Pass	1 \clubsuit
1 \diamond	1 \heartsuit	Pass	2NT
Pass	3 \clubsuit	Pass	3 \diamond
Pass	3 \heartsuit	All Pass	

Kippe's 1 \spadesuit response showed four or more hearts and he cuebid at his next turn to find the spade fit but still suggested 4 \heartsuit on the way to 4 \spadesuit . Marjai liked his spades and two aces and doubled the final contract. There was little to the play with Marjai coming to all the five that were his due so the contract was down two for -500.

Mraz could respond naturally and, when Szegedi simply showed his balanced hand and range, ignoring the spades, eventually settled in 3♥. A diamond was led to the queen and Eide cashed the ♣A before trying to cash the ♦A. That was ruffed and Mraz cashed the top hearts, just conceding a heart as all his spade losers went away on the established minor-suit winners; +170 and 12 IMPs to Hungary.

At the half-way point in the match Hungary led by 39-11 IMPs.

Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

♠ A 10 7 6 3 ♥ Q 7 4 2 ♦ J 10 ♣ 10 6	N W E S	♠ K 5 ♥ J 9 6 5 3 ♦ A Q 8 5 ♣ 9 7	♠ Q 9 8 4 2 ♥ 10 ♦ K 9 4 ♣ K J 5 3
♠ J ♥ A K 8 ♦ 7 6 3 2 ♣ A Q 8 4 2			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marjai	Kippe	Minarik	Ringseth
Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
P Eide	Mraz	Livgard	Szegedi
2♥	Pass	3♠	Dble
All Pass			

Eide could open 2♥ to show a weak hand with some length in both majors and Livgard had sufficient spade support to jump pre-emptively to 3♠, doubled by Szegedi. Mraz had only a doubleton spade but such heart length as to see little prospect in declaring the contract his way so passed.

Three Spades doubled is easy enough to beat as there are two clubs and a trick in each of the other suits to be had. However, after Szegedi led his spade to dummy's ace and Livgard ran the ♣10 to him, he played a diamond to his partner's ace and the ♠K was cashed. A diamond continuation allowed Livgard to run it to dummy's jack, cross to hand with a spade and pitch the club loser on the ♦K, after which he just had to lose a heart; +530.

At the other table it was East who opened with a weak two-suited 2♠ bid. When that ran around to North, West going very quietly, Kippe doubled then converted the 3♣ response to 3♥, where he played. That was delicate judgement from Marjai, who might have been tempted to compete to 3♠. The defence led a spade to the ace and a spade back and Kippe won and led a heart to the ace then a low heart to Marjai's queen. That enabled him to keep control as a third spade could have been ruffed in the short hand. With both minor-suit finesses working there was just a diamond to be lost from here; +170 and 12 IMPs to Norway.

Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

♠ 8 ♥ 10 9 4 2 ♦ A 8 7 4 3 2 ♣ K Q	N W E S	♠ A K 10 9 7 6 ♥ 8 ♦ K 6 5 ♣ A 5 2	♠ 5 2 ♥ K 7 5 ♦ 9 ♣ 10 9 8 7 6 4 3
		♠ Q J 4 3 ♥ A Q J 6 3 ♦ Q J 10 ♣ J	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marjai	Kippe	Minarik	Ringseth
–	–	–	1♥
Pass	1♠	4♣	Pass
5♣	5♠	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
P Eide	Mraz	Livgard	Szegedi
–	–	–	1♥
3♦	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Both North/South pairs did well to overcome the intervention to bid to the good but unlucky small slam. Both Easts led the ♦9 to partner's ace. Mraz dropped the king but Eide duly gave Livgard his ruff for down one; -100. Kippe did not drop the king but Marjai switched to the ♣K. Oops! It was easy to make the slam from here; +1430 and 17 IMPs to Norway, who had closed right up to trail by just a single IMP at 44-45.

After a normal pass from East, Marjai could open 2♠ in third seat and Kippe just overcalled 6♣, knowing that he would never be able to find out what he needed for any other contract. That was doubled by Marjai and really Kippe was very unlucky as it is only East's diamond trick that prevents 6♣ from making. Kippe was just one down, losing a trick in each minor, for -200 but 3 IMPs to Norway.

Board 20. All Vul. Dealer West.

♠ J 10 8 6 3 2 ♥ 4 ♦ A 3 2 ♣ A K 5	♠ — ♥ A Q J 9 3 2 ♦ Q 5 4 ♣ Q 9 7 3 <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: 10px auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">W E</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;">S</div> </div>	♠ A 5 ♥ 7 ♦ 10 9 8 7 6 ♣ 10 8 6 4 2	♠ K Q 9 7 4 ♥ K 10 8 6 5 ♦ K J ♣ J
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Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Marjai	Kippe	Minarik	Ringseth
1♠	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
P Eide	Mraz	Livgard	Szegedi
1♠	2♥	Pass	4♣
Dble	4♥	All Pass	

Szegedi splintered in support of Mraz's overcall but that did not excite Mraz, who signed off in 4♥. He ruffed the lead of the ♠A and just lost two aces; +650.

Ringseth cuebid opposite his partner's overcall and that excited Kippe enormously for some reason that is unclear to me. The leap to 4♠ showed a void, of course, and Ringseth thought that he held enough trumps and minor-suit controls to bid the slam. Who can blame him, as it is hard to imagine a partner with only one key card driving to the five level opposite what was presumably only a game try initially. After a club lead, Marjai took a club and a diamond for down one; -100 and 13 IMPs to Hungary.

That last board decided the match in favour of the Hungarians, who ran out winners by 59-50 IMPs, 17-13 VPs.

Scotland the Brave

By Patrick Jourdain (Wales)

With no team from Wales here, I support the country I have represented in the past (Scotland) and the country of my birth, England. In Round 5 Scotland drew with the current World and European champions, Italy. This deal was a major contribution to the Scottish cause.

Board 7. All Vul. Dealer South.

♠ A K 7 5 ♥ K Q 7 6 2 ♦ K 8 4 3 ♣ —	♠ 10 2 ♥ 10 5 4 3 ♦ 7 ♣ A K J 9 8 3 <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: 10px auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">W E</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;">S</div> </div>	♠ Q 3 ♥ 9 8 ♦ A Q J 10 6 ♣ Q 6 5 2	♠ J 9 8 6 4 ♥ A J ♦ 9 5 2 ♣ 10 7 4
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wilkinson	Furio	Gaffin	Stelio
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	2♣	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
4NT(i)	Pass	5♣(ii)	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

- (i) Roman Keycard
- (ii) 1 or 4 key cards

Six Diamonds is an excellent slam but, without the use of Exclusion Blackwood, Alex Wilkinson had to make the reasonable assumption that his partner's key card was a red ace, and that the trump suit was good enough to stand up on its own.

If South leads a trump at trick one, and another when in with the ace of hearts, declarer can ruff only two clubs. One club will go on the third spade, but the last has to go on a heart.

However, Stelio Di Bello chose to lead a spade. Declarer, Ronald Gaffin, won in hand, ruffed a club and led a top heart from dummy. South won and led a second spade. North was not able to ruff, but one late entry to the fifth heart had gone.

Declarer can succeed by drawing trumps and guessing to take a ruffing finesse in hearts against

North's ten (he makes three tricks in each major and six trump tricks). However, Gaffin's crossruff line was safer. As South was sure to have another spade, he began with a top spade from dummy. North ruffed and declarer over-ruffed. A club ruff was followed by a spade ruff with declarer's small trump. Now the hearts were being ruffed with high trumps, and North was known to be following suit to the club ruffs, so declarer was home.

Declarer made only three tricks in the major suits, but all nine of his trumps for +1540 to Scotland.

At the other table the auction began the same way, but over Three Diamonds West simply signed off in game. Scotland had gained 14 IMPs.

Belgian Team Profile

Hello, the Belgian team strikes again ! It strikes even twice, as there are TWO Belgian teams present here, for the first time in ten years. And, as you will see, the Girls and Junior teams are solidly bound to each other.

We start the presentation with **Steven De Donder (24)**, who is wrongly called Steve by both the EBL and WBL and has renounced to let it change after many attempts. With his 193 cm he is one of the tallest boys in the room, an excellent badminton player also. His weight does not exceed 70 kg but his brains are very impressive. Some years ago in Maastricht he won a junior award for the best played deal of the tournament. His home place, Lokeren, is well known by soccer fans, even as the club he is playing for in the Belgian Honour League, Beveren.

His partner **Alon Amsel (24)** is the most international of our guys. He made numerous appearances on the university circuit, playing in Antwerp (his home town), Maastricht, Rotterdam, Bruges and Poland, but surprisingly enough he attends the European Championships for the first. He speaks French, Dutch, English, German, Hebrew and is learning Spanish ! He works at the University of Antwerp and weights 69 kg – easy to remember.

Alon is certainly not the only university worker in our team. **Johan Fastenakels (23)** and **Joris Verachten (turning 25 this summer)** are both active at the University of Leuven. Both represented their university last summer in Poland, but played in different teams and had of course different results. Johan finished 3rd in the same team as Alon, Joris ended also 3rd, but from the bottom. Johan played before a couple of Channel Trophies. Johan weights 72 kg, while Joris is the only one in the team to bypass 80 (but don't tell him he's fat !).

And then we have the traditional family pair in the Belgian team. **Danny De Roos (25)** and his brother **Steve (23)** are well known figures in the youth bridge

world. Playing together, they have attended about every World Junior Pairs event except the very first one, and after having tried eight times they finally won the Channel Trophy in 2003! Both are playing in the Belgian Honour League for Squeeze Antwerp. This is really not a heavy pair. Steve is 60 kg and his brother only 54! He was so bored by frequently asked questions such as "When will you turn 18?" that he let his beard grow recently, so now the most frequently asked question is "Will you turn 21 this year?".

Both brothers are boyfriends of the two sisters of our Girls Team, **Ine (19)** and **Elke Ydens (18)**. Just as Steven De Donder, Ine is desperately trying to get printed her first name correctly, as she is registered here as 'Tinne' (why are Belgian first names so difficult, I ask you?). Ine studies in Antwerp for civil engineering and Elke will start biochemistry in September. They both played the World Championships in Lille in 1998 and were at that moment the youngest players in the field, but after that they turned their attention to something else than bridge. Elke is 50 kg and Ine holds a record which is difficult to break with 47! Ine and Danny are weighing together 101 kg, this must be the lightest couple in the bridge world.

Julie Laffut (24) from Liege is the only player in the Belgian team who comes from the Southern part of the country. She studied painting restoration so, if you want to renew your house, feel free to contact her. She is best known on BBO as 'Boutchou'.

Tine Dobbels (20) comes from the same city as Johan and Joris, Leuven. She studies for civil engineering too. To answer a very frequently asked question, and I fear I will disappoint a lot of you, she is not free at this moment ! Her personal palmares involves a third place in Poland in 2003 and three participations in the Channel Trophy. Next season she will move to Antwerp where, it is said, the bridge is better than in Leuven.

And finally I will present myself, **Jean-Francois Jourdain (42)**, everybody calls me Pitch (don't ask why!) This is my fourth European Youth Championship, as I played in Budapest (1986) and was coaching our juniors in Antalya (2000) and Torquay (2002). I was a good chess player in my youth but I had to stop my chess career because of my job of journalist on the Brussels quality paper La Libre Belgique. I'm also an IBPA member. As I have to buy a drink to everyone when they score 18 or more, and champagne in case of 25 or defeating a top team, I'm running out of money, so I will accept a small present from you all at the bridge table. Thanks in advance.

JUNIOR TEAMS ROUND 4



ENGLAND

vs SERBIA & MONT.



The English Junior team had made a solid if unspectacular start to the Championship, while Serbia/Montenegro are perhaps here more for the experience than with realistic hopes of qualification. This match, in round 4 tended to confirm that view as everything went the way of England.

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Morris	Zakula	Byrne	Popovic
–	–	1♥	1♠
Pass	2♦	2♥	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The first six calls were identical but then Nikola Jurisic doubled with the West cards, presumably showing a penalty double of spades, while Alex Morris wisely looked at his lack of defence against diamonds and kept quiet. Jurisic's double ended the auction, while Morris found himself on lead against a rather thin 3NT contract.

Against 3♦ doubled, Marko Jurisic led his spade and Ben Green went up with dummy's ace, West following with the ten, to play a low diamond. Nikola won the ace, of course, and cashed the ♠K then played a low spade. Green ruffed with the queen, and played a diamond to the king then ran the ♠8, punishing West for the signal at trick one, and had nine tricks when the heart honours were both onside; +670. Of course, declarer could have succeeded even had West not been so helpful in the spade suit, but it was very easy for him on the actual play.

Morris led the ♣J against 3NT and that held the trick. A second club went to the queen and king and Michael Byrne switched to the ♠J, run to the king. Morris could clear the clubs now and wait to get in with the ace of diamonds to cash them. The contract was down four for –400 and 14 IMPs to England.

♠ Q 3		♠ J
♥ J 8 3		♥ A Q 9 7 6 4 2
♦ Q 10 8 4 3		♦ J 7 5
♣ A Q 4		♣ K 7

♠ K 10 9 4 2		♠ A 8 7 6 5
♥ –		♥ K 10 5
♦ A		♦ K 9 6 2
♣ J 10 9 8 5 3 2		♣ 6

	N	
W		E
	S	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
N Jurisic	Green	M Jurisic	Happer
–	–	1♥	1♠
Pass	2♦	2♥	3♦
Dble	All Pass		



Zdravko Popovic, Serbia & Montenegro

Board 7. All Vul. Dealer South.

♠ K J 9 4 3		♠ 10 8
♥ 8 6		♥ A Q J 4 2
♦ K 7 6		♦ A Q 2
♣ K 10 7		♣ A 4 2

♠ A Q 5 2		♠ 7 6
♥ –		♥ K 10 9 7 5 3
♦ 10 5 4		♦ J 9 8 3
♣ Q J 9 8 5 3		♣ 6

	N	
W		E
	S	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>N Jurisic</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>M Jurisic</i>	<i>Happer</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♠	Dble	2♦
Pass	2♥	Dble	All Pass

Green opened slightly light in third seat and soon found himself declarer in 2♥ doubled after Duncan Happer's transfer response. Marko Jurisic did not find the best of starts, ace and another club, and Green won the second round, pitching a spade from dummy, then led the ♥6 and ran it. A second heart was won by Easy's ace and Marko played a third club, ruffed in dummy. Declarer played a spade and Nikola Jurisic rose with the ace to play another club, ruffed as East threw a diamond. Now Green played king and another heart to Marko, who played a spade for the queen and king. He had to ruff Green's next play of the ♠J and, down to ♦AQ, had to give declarer a seventh trick at the end for just one down and –200.

In the other room the contract was 2♥ undoubled down two, so it was a flat board.

Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

♠ 7 5											
♥ A 3											
♦ A Q 10 9 7											
♣ A 9 8 7											
♠ A 9 6 2	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"><tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K Q J 4
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ K 10 9 6 4		♥ J									
♦ 5 4		♦ K 3									
♣ 5 2		♣ K Q J 10 4 3									
	♠ 10 8 3										
	♥ Q 8 7 5 2										
	♦ J 8 6 2										
	♣ 6										

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>N Jurisic</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>M Jurisic</i>	<i>Happer</i>
–	1♦	Dble	2NT
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Morris</i>	<i>Zakula</i>	<i>Byrne</i>	<i>Popovic</i>
–	1♦	2♣	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Dble	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Happer's 2NT was a pre-emptive diamond raise and Nikola showed her hearts but then passed Marko's

3NT bid. Maybe Nikola could have guessed that partner held spades because he did not hold hearts, but it was awkward. Anyway, 3NT was hopeless after the inevitable diamond lead; down two for –200.

I much prefer Byrne's 2♣ overcall to the double found in the other room. Morris could do nothing immediately opposite that but later took the opportunity to make a take-out double when his opponents got together in diamonds. Morris liked that enough to jump to game in spades, needing little more than one ace and a little luck to make that a playable contract. Of course, a club ruff would defeat 4♠ quite easily, but Zdravko Popovic led a diamond, normally enough, and Zoran Zakula won the ace and returned the suit to Byrne's king. Declarer could draw trumps and knock out the ♣A to come to ten tricks for +620 and 13 IMPs to England.

Board 10. All Vul. Dealer East.

♠ A J 10 8 5 3											
♥ 10 9 2											
♦ 10 3											
♣ 6 3											
♠ 9 7	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"><tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K Q 6 4
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ K J 6 4 3		♥ Q 8 7									
♦ J 9 7 6		♦ 8 5									
♣ K 2		♣ A Q 10 7									
	♠ 2										
	♥ A 5										
	♦ A K Q 4 2										
	♣ J 9 8 5 4										

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>N Jurisic</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>M Jurisic</i>	<i>Happer</i>
–	–	1♣	1♦
1♥	1♠	2♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Morris</i>	<i>Zakula</i>	<i>Byrne</i>	<i>Popovic</i>
–	–	1♠	2♦
Dble	Pass	2NT	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Marko opened 1♣ in standard style and the heart fit was easily found, the Jurisics stopping in a peaceful 2♥. Green led a diamond and Happer won and switched to his spade, getting his ruff a moment later. Now he cashed a second diamond before playing a club. Declarer won and played a heart to the queen and ace and now a diamond promoted a heart trick for North

for down one; -100.

Byrne's 1♠ opening resulted in the hearts never being mentioned. No matter – Morris first made a negative double of 2♦ then a penalty double of 3♦, and that proved to be a very good idea for his side. A heart went to the queen and ace and Popovic played a spade to the ace then a club up, on which Byrne rose with the ace. He switched to a diamond for declarer's ace and now the defence could prevent any club ruffs in the dummy. Popovic came to just four trump tricks and two major-suit aces for down three; -800 and 14 IMPs to England.

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

♠ 6 ♥ 10 6 4 3 2 ♦ A 8 6 ♣ K 8 4 3	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N				W	E			S	♠ J 10 7 2 ♥ J 9 7 ♦ K 7 5 2 ♣ 9 2	♠ 9 8 5 4 ♥ A ♦ Q 9 4 3 ♣ A J 6 5
N												
	W	E										
		S										
	♠ A K Q 3 ♥ K Q 8 5 ♦ J 10 ♣ Q 10 7											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
N Jurisic	Green	M Jurisic	Happer
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Morris	Zakula	Byrne	Popovic
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
2♣	All Pass		

Popovic's strong no trump opening saw Byrne able to double, as a passed hand for take-out, and Morris declared 2♣. Once North turned up with the king of diamonds, Morris knew where almost all the missing high cards had to be and the play was quite straightforward for him. He managed nine tricks for a useful +110.

Happer was playing a weaker no trump so had to open 1♥ in his partnership's four-card major style. When Green scraped up a raise, Happer went on with 2NT, where he played. The defence started with a club to the ace, the ♣J to queen and king, and a third club.

Happer played a heart to the jack and ace and East cashed the winning club, on which Happer threw diamonds from both hands, then exited with a spade. Happer cashed the ♥K, unblocking dummy's nine, then cashed the rest of the spades. Forced to keep two hearts, West was obliged to bare the ace of diamonds. A diamond play now left him to lead into the ♥Q8 at trick twelve to give declarer's eighth trick; a nicely played +120 and 6 IMPs to England.

Note that this line of play also succeeds if West has to bare the ♦Q instead of the ace, as long as he also holds at least one of the ♦9 and ♦8. When the diamond is led and the queen appears, declarer ducks. If the queen holds the trick, West is endplayed, while if East overtakes with the ace, he has to lead away from the ♦9 into the ♦K7 at trick twelve.

Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

♠ A Q J 8 3 ♥ 10 9 8 3 2 ♦ 10 4 ♣ A	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N				W	E			S	♠ 9 6 5 4 ♥ A J 7 5 ♦ – ♣ 10 7 5 4 3	♠ K ♥ Q 6 ♦ A Q J 7 5 2 ♣ K 9 6 2
N												
	W	E										
		S										
	♠ 10 7 2 ♥ K 4 ♦ K 9 8 6 3 ♣ Q J 8											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
N Jurisic	Green	M Jurisic	Happer
–	Pass	–	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Morris	Zakula	Byrne	Popovic
–	–	–	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Morris's 3♥ bid at his third turn looks more normal than Nikola's 3NT, but that latter contract was where both pairs ended up, though from different sides of the table.

Green led a club for the jack and ace and Nikola played the ♦10, ducked as Green threw a club, then a

second diamond. This time Green threw a spade as Happer won the $\diamond K$. Happer switched to a spade and declarer judged to win the bare king then try the $\heartsuit Q$ from dummy. Happer won the $\heartsuit K$ and played a second heart to Green's jack. He put dummy in with a club and declarer drifted two down for -200.

Byrne did rather better after the lead of the $\clubsuit Q$ to dummy's bare ace. When he ran the $\diamond 10$ it was won immediately by Popovic, who continued with the $\clubsuit J$, ducked, and another club, giving declarer a third club trick. When Byrne cashed the three diamond tricks, North pitched a spade so declarer could overtake the $\spadesuit K$ and cash all the spades; eleven tricks for +660 and 13 IMPs to England.

Board 20. All Vul. Dealer West.

<p>\spadesuit 10 8 4 \heartsuit A K J 2 \diamond A K 9 8 2 \clubsuit A</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S		<p>\spadesuit 3 \heartsuit Q 9 5 4 \diamond Q 10 7 6 \clubsuit K 9 6 2</p>	<p>\spadesuit K Q 7 5 \heartsuit 10 7 \diamond J 5 3 \clubsuit J 10 8 4</p>
N												
W	E											
	S											
	<p>\spadesuit A J 9 6 2 \heartsuit 8 6 3 \diamond 4 \clubsuit Q 7 5 3</p>											

That did not impress Happer, who had already shown at least five spades so had nothing to spare, and he signed off in $4\spadesuit$.

The lead was a heart and Happer won the ace and cashed the top diamonds, throwing a heart from hand. He then cashed the ace of clubs, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club, and played $\heartsuit K$ then ruffed a heart low and was over-ruffed. Back came a club, which dummy ruffed. A diamond ruff with the ace of trumps left Happer with $\spadesuit J 9$ facing $\spadesuit 10$, and a club lead ensured that he would make a trump trick one way or another for his contract; +620 and 14 IMPs to England.

The one-way traffic finally came to an end with England coming out on top by 97.7 IMPs, or 25.0 VPs.



Ben Green, England

Open Room

West	North	East	South
N Jurisic	Green	M Jurisic	Happer
Pass	1 \diamond	Pass	1 \spadesuit
Pass	2 \heartsuit	Pass	2 \spadesuit
Pass	4 \clubsuit	Pass	4 \spadesuit
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Morris	Zakula	Byrne	Popovic
Pass	1 \diamond	Pass	1 \heartsuit
Dble	3 \diamond	Pass	3 \spadesuit
Pass	4 \clubsuit	Dble	Pass
Pass	Rdbl	Pass	4 \spadesuit
Pass	5 \spadesuit	Pass	6 \spadesuit
All Pass			

I have no idea what was going on in the Serbia/Montenegro auction. Suffice it to say that $6\spadesuit$ was too high both in theory and in practice and it went three down for 300 to England. Meanwhile, Green showed his diamonds, his hearts and a strong hand, then a club splinter in support of spades.

Teams and Players' Photos

Schedule Thursday August 5th

- 09.45 Hungary Girls
- Netherlands Girls
- 12.40 Spain Juniors
- Russia Juniors
- Norway Juniors
- England Juniors



We'll meet outside the playing building with the captain (and coach) of the teams present too.

Please wear a national sign so I can recognise you (even from a distance...).

Maria Ploumpi
EBL Photographer

Double Dummy Problem

If previous problems have featured techniques that one might just conceivably use in real life, today's problem is definitely extremely artificial and while part of the solution involves a technique that has a practical value, none of us will ever have to play in quite this fashion at the table.

Hidden Side of Bridge

♠ 10 8 ♥ K Q J 10 9 8 7 ♦ – ♣ Q	♠ J 9 4 3 2 ♥ – ♦ A 4 3 2 ♣ 5 4 3 2	♠ K 7 ♥ 2 ♦ K Q J 10 9 8 ♣ K J 10 9	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: black; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table> ♠ A Q 6 5 ♥ A 3 ♦ 7 6 5 ♣ A 8 7 6	N	W E	S
N						
W E						
S						

Contract: 4♠

Lead: ♥K

The solution of the problem is on page 16.

Meet the Dutch girls

Monique van de Sande: She's the oldest (25), largest and wisest of the team. She's very kind (too kind actually: she felt so sorry for an opponent when she made a mistake, she returned the favour and deliberately gave her two tricks back). She studies tourism and besides bridge she is an expert on canoeing and bow shooting.

Rosalien Barendregt: Our Benjamin (18) is almost always cheerful and sweet. She has a natural flair for Public Relations and maintains the official youth bridge site of the Netherlands (www.jeugdbridge.nl). She is the current Dutch Mixed Pairs Champion. She is also a professional clown (specialities: making balloon figures and unicycling) and when she has any time left she studies.

Astrid Dekker (22): She used to be very modest and always nice, but as she's getting more experienced she even calls the director by herself. In the Czech supermarket we found out that beside her study to become a social worker she has her own line of cosmetics (called 'Astrid'). Her boyfriend Bas is pâtissier but not a very good bridge-player, so the captain is looking around for other candidates. She is

a great fan of K3 (a Belgian girls band, very popular among 3-5 year old kids) and fairy-tales.

Marleen van Gelder (21): A student epidemiology (bio-medical sciences). She seems shy, quiet and very modest, but she has a real killer's mentality. She says that her boyfriend Hans is really very sweet, nice and so on, but since the captain has never seen him play we are afraid they'll have to split-up in the near future. Marleen is an enthusiastic youth bridge official in the Netherlands.

Meike Wortel (21): She recently won the bronze medal in the World Junior Individual Championship in New York. Meike follows three studies: Biology, Mathematics and Artificial Intelligence) and is a chess champion. She has begged the captain to be allowed to keep her boyfriend Jochem. He has been given six months time to improve his play.

Marion Michielsen (19 since August 2nd): On the first night in Prague the Dutch Juniors and girls played a game of 'Guess Who..?'. Marion was asked: "Is it a man?"

"Yes"

"Have you kissed him?"

"No"

"Then it must be your brother"

Marion is playing the Schools Championship as well, so she made a dressing-plan for the fortnight. Since she switches clothes at least twice a day, it contained several pages. When so appeared the Juniors didn't want to help her carry she had to leave three suitcases at home.

We promised to say something nice as well: When she doesn't revoke she really is a very good player :-). She is the current Dutch Mixed Teams Champion. And when Marion is around there's never a dull (or silent) moment.

Martine Verbeek (41): The coach of the team for the last three years. Since Martine is a former World Champion (Venice Cup, Bermuda 2000), they cannot wish for a better one. She has a fiancée called Ron and the captain approves of the relationship. Martine feels it her responsibility to keep the admirers away from the girls, because it distracts them. The captain doesn't agree...

Marjolein Debets (40): She doesn't know a thing about bridge, but she thinks it's a positive quality to be engaged to a good player (her husband Maarten is making his debut in the Dutch team during the Olympiad in Istanbul). Therefore she has one rule: Sex is allowed (recommended even), but only in your own bed (so the captain can check the partners).

Marjolein is the very proud mother of baby Wietze (16 months and learning to count).

JUNIOR TEAMS ROUND 5



BELGIUM

vs

GREECE.



Monday was a good day for Belgium in the Juniors as they were collecting almost a maximum, 70 out of 75 possible VPs. First there was Lithuania who were blitzed by 25-2, then Germany was defeated by 20-10 and finally Portugal was polished off by 25-2.

These three victories were perhaps an expensive experience for the Belgian captain, Jean-Francois Jourdain, who before these Championships promised his team players one bottle of champagne for each match they won. The bulletin staff assume that he meant a bottle for the whole team – not each player. If that was the case we have no information about, but when we sat down to watch Tuesday's early match the Belgians looked fresh like a daisy, as Stefan Back in the EBL Youth committee would have expressed it.

In Round 5 the Belgians was challenged by Greece, a team that in these Championships won't do quite as well as their soccer team did at the European Championship earlier this year...

Vassilis Vroustis made a sensible try by bidding 3NT when Philippos Karamanlis opened 3♦. East led a heart to West's queen and declarer's king. Vroustis played ♦A and noticed the jack from West. Now Vroustis said to himself: Makapi va min eixa to deka karo (If only I didn't have the ten of diamonds). If he had held ♦9 instead, and the dummy the ten, there would be an option of finessing the diamonds. But the Greek Gods had left Prague and the game was doomed to go down; 200 to Belgium.

In the Closed Room Milton Karamanlis, in best Peter Fredin manner, listened to the auction and then took some action. In 3♥ there were four tricks to lose; 140 to Greece but 3 IMPs to Belgium.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ A 9 6 4 3 ♥ Q 8 5 3 ♦ J ♣ Q J 10	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q 8 5 ♥ K 10 4 2 ♦ A 10 ♣ A K 7 6	♠ K J 2 ♥ A J 9 7 6 ♦ Q 4 3 ♣ 5 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S			
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ 10 7 ♥ – ♦ K 9 8 7 6 5 2 ♣ 9 8 4 3											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
De Donder	Vroustis	Amsel	P.Karamanlis
–	–	–	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Anastasios	Fastenakels	M.Karamanlis	Verachten
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♥	All Pass

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ 10 2 ♥ 10 5 4 3 ♦ 7 ♣ A K J 9 8 3	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q 3 ♥ 9 8 ♦ A Q J 10 6 ♣ Q 6 5 2	♠ A K 7 5 ♥ K Q 7 6 2 ♦ K 8 4 3 ♣ –
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S			
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ J 9 8 6 4 ♥ A J ♦ 9 5 2 ♣ 10 7 4											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
De Donder	Vroustis	Amsel	P.Karamanlis
–	–	–	Pass
1♥	2♣	2♦	3♣
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Anastasios	Fastenakels	M.Karamanlis	Verachten
–	–	–	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

A reverse auction didn't impress Milton Karamanlis on this board. He simply bid 3NT, certainly not the best spot to be but 600 to Greece anyway as the cards lay.

In the Open Room Steve de Donder and Alon Amsel were more brave. 4♣ was a cuebid in clubs, 4♥ an attempt to play there and now de Donder bid 5♣, Exclusion Blackwood. 5♥ showed one key card. Since the hearts were split nicely 6♦ didn't cause Amsel any problem; +1370 and 13 well-earned IMPs to Belgium.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ A 9 5 2 ♥ K 9 8 5 4 ♦ A 10 ♣ 6 2	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: black; color: white;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ Q J 10 8 3 ♥ A 6 ♦ J 7 6 4 ♣ Q 7	♠ 7 ♥ Q J 7 ♦ K Q 5 3 ♣ A K 10 5 3
N						
W E						
S						

Open Room

West	North	East	South
De Donder	Vroustis	Amsel	P.Karamanlis
-	1♥	1♠	2♠
Dble	Pass	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Anastasios	Fastenakels	M.Karamanlis	Verachten
-	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

As a double dummy problem you can always make 6♥ and there were a few tables where North/South reached 6♥ and the declarer made it.

In the Closed Room Fastenakels/Verachten didn't have any higher aspirations and stayed in 4♥, but that was enough to win the board. If the Belgians were far away from slam the Greeks were not even close... to game. There was a misunderstanding at the other table, whether a new suit at the three-level is forcing or not. I hope they worked that out for the coming matches. 3♣ was made with an overtrick and 4♥ just made; 7 IMPs to Belgium.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ K 7 6 5 ♥ - ♦ K Q 2 ♣ A Q 10 9 6 3	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: black; color: white;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 9 ♥ Q J 8 2 ♦ 9 5 3 ♣ K 8 7 5 2	♠ A 10 8 2 ♥ A 10 6 5 4 ♦ J 7 4 ♣ J
N						
W E						
S						

Open Room

West	North	East	South
De Donder	Vroustis	Amsel	P.Karamanlis
-	-	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♥	2♣	3♣
5♣	Pass	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Anastasios	Fastenakels	M.Karamanlis	Verachten
-	-	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

East/West can make 5♣. Donder/Amsel reached the nice game but Philippos Karamanlis sacrificed in 5♥. The nine of spades was led and the queen held the first trick. Vroustis played a heart to his ace and another heart to jack and king. A spade to the eight saw East ruff, then play the ♥Q. Amsel continued with a club to partner's ace and de Donder exited with a spade. Vroustis eliminated the spade suit and played a diamond to the ten and West's king. West was now endplayed. But who of the defenders held ♦J and ♦9? De Donder played another diamond in tempo and Vroustis misguessed the situation, playing low instead of putting up the jack. West had to win a trick with the ♦Q and that was three down; 500 to Belgium.

In the Closed Room East/West tried a no trump game, maybe an odd choice for West who is void in hearts. Fastenakels led ♥5 and the queen was allowed to hold the trick. Next came a diamond to the queen and a club to the king. Declarer tried another diamond up but now Verachten jumped up with his ace and the curtains were closed for the declarer.

The defence took eight tricks in the majors in a row and generously gave away the last trick to declarer's $\diamond K$; five off and 250 to Fastenakels/Verachten and that was 13 IMPs to Belgium.

Belgium was leading by 40-30 IMPs after 14 boards. This was another nice swing for Belgium, even though it should have been the other way around.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

<p>\spadesuit K 10 \heartsuit A 8 \diamond A K 10 8 7 3 \clubsuit K 6 2</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S		<p>\spadesuit A Q 6 5 \heartsuit J 7 5 \diamond J 9 6 2 \clubsuit Q J</p>	<p>\spadesuit 7 4 \heartsuit 10 9 6 4 3 \diamond Q 4 \clubsuit A 8 7 4</p>
N												
W	E											
	S											

Open Room

West	North	East	South
De Donder	Vroustis	Amsel	P.Karamanlis
–	–	Pass	Pass
2 \spadesuit	3 \diamond	3 \spadesuit	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Anastasios	Fastenakels	M.Karamanlis	Verachten
–	–	Pass	Pass
Pass	1 \diamond	Pass	1 \heartsuit
Pass	3 \diamond	Pass	3 \spadesuit
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

De Donder/Amsel bid and made 3 \spadesuit in the Open Room; +140.

3NT by North is a perfect contract as long as the diamonds split. In theory 3NT should be beaten, but as we can see not in practise.

East led $\spadesuit 5$ to West's jack and declarer's king. A diamond to the queen was followed by another diamond from dummy. Fastenakels got the bad news when West pitched $\clubsuit 5$, and he let East win the trick. From East's point of view it's not obvious that his partner has got five spades. He knows declarer holds $\spadesuit 10$ since West played $\spadesuit J$ at trick one. Therefore East switched to a club and now declarer was able to collect nine tricks and that was worth another 12 IMPs for Belgium.

The Greeks didn't have their best day. They were defeated by 10-20 (35-61).

Perhaps the coach, Yankos Papakyriakopoulos from now on will try the Belgian strategy and offer a Greek Mac at McDonald's to the players if they start winning matches. But after I tried a Greek Mac myself I guess they rather have that bottle of champagne...

Double Dummy Solution

To make 4 \spadesuit declarer must start with the strange play of ruffing the heart lead in dummy and dropping the ace from hand. He draws two rounds of trumps with the aid of the finesse, cashes the $\clubsuit A$, then leads the $\heartsuit 3$ to West, discarding a diamond from dummy.

West is obliged to lead a heart and declarer throws a diamond from dummy and a club from hand. The next trick is the same two discards, leaving:

<p>\spadesuit – \heartsuit 9 8 7 6 5 4 \diamond – \clubsuit –</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S		<p>\spadesuit J 9 \heartsuit – \diamond A \clubsuit 5 4 3</p>	<p>\spadesuit – \heartsuit – \diamond K Q J \clubsuit K J 10</p>
N												
W	E											
	S											
		<p>\spadesuit 6 5 \heartsuit – \diamond 7 6 5 \clubsuit 8</p>										

At trick eight, West leads yet another heart and declarer ruffs in dummy, throwing the last club from hand. Now:

If East threw a diamond at trick eight, cash the $\diamond A$, ruff a club, ruff a diamond, ruff a club and cash the last diamond (this option will be particularly appealing to those players who know about the beer card (the $\diamond 7$)).

If East threw a club at trick eight, club ruff, $\diamond A$, club ruff, diamond ruff, cash the last club.

Easy!



What Is That We Are Drinking?

Niek Brink of the Netherlands Junior team called in to tell us about a small conversation he had with his German opponent at the table. The opponent commented that, "We seem to drink water like vodka here." The opponent's name: Alexander Smirnov.